

## SER

Shall I the neighbours nightly rest invade,  
At her deaf doors, with some vile *serenade*? *Dryden.*  
Will fancies he never should have been the man he is, had  
not he broke windows, and disturbed honest people with his  
midnight *serenades*, when he was a young fellow. *Adison.*  
To SERENADE. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To entertain with  
nocturnal music.  
He continued to *serenade* her every morning, 'till the queen  
was charmed with his harmony. *Spectator.*  
SERENE. *adj.* [from *seren*, French; *serenus*, Latin.]  
1. Calm; placid; quiet.  
Spirits live inspherd  
In regions mild, of calm and *serene* air. *Milton.*  
The moon, *serene* in glory, mounts the sky. *Pope.*  
2. Unruffled; undisturbed; even of temper; peaceful or calm of  
mind; shewing a calm mind.  
There wanted yet a creature might erect  
His stature, and upright with front *serene* *Milton.*  
Exciting them, by a due remembrance of all that is past,  
unto future circumspection, and a *serene* expectation of the  
future life. *Greav's Cynist.*  
Gutta SERENA. *n. f.* An obstruction in the optic nerve.  
These eyes that roll in vain,  
So thick a drop *serene* hath quench'd their orbs. *Milton.*  
SERENE. *n. f.* [from the adjective.] A calm damp evening.  
Where ever death doth please to appear,  
Seas, *serenes*, fwords, shot, lickenes, all are there. *Ben. Jonson.*  
To SERENE. *v. a.* [from *seren*, French; *serenus*, Latin.]  
1. To calm; to quiet.  
2. To clear; to brighten. Not proper.  
Take care  
Thy muddy bev'rage to *serene*, and drive  
Precipitant the baser rosy lees. *Philips.*  
SERENELY. *adv.* [from *serene*.]  
1. Calmly; quietly.  
The setting sun now shone *serenely* bright. *Pope.*  
2. With unruffled temper; coolly.  
Whatever practical rule is generally broken, cannot be sup-  
posed innate; it being impossible that men would, without  
fame or fear, confidently and *serenely* break a rule, which they  
could not but evidently know that God had set up. *Locke.*  
I he nymph did like the scene appears,  
*Serenely* pleasant, calmly fair: *Prior.*  
Soft fell her words as flew the air.  
SERENESS. *n. f.* [from *serene*.] Serenity.  
SERENITUDE. *n. f.* [from *serene*.] Calmness; coolness of  
mind. Not in use.  
From the equal distribution of the phlegmatick humour,  
will flow quietude and *serenitude* in the affections. *Watson.*  
SERENITY. *n. f.* [from *seren*, Fr. from *serenus*, Latin.]  
1. Calmness; temperance.  
In the constitution of a perpetual equinox, the best part of  
the globe would be desolate; and as to that little that would  
be inhabited, there is no reason to expect that it would con-  
stantly enjoy that admired calm and *serenity*. *Bentley.*  
Pure *serenity* apace  
Induces thought, and contemplation fill. *Thomson.*  
2. Peace; quietness; not disturbance.  
A general peace and *serenity* newly succeeded a general  
trouble and cloud throughout all his kingdoms. *Temple.*  
3. Evenness of temper; coolness of mind.  
I cannot see how any men should ever transgress those mor-  
al rules, with confidence and *serenity*, were they innate, and  
stamped upon their minds. *Locke.*  
SERGE. *n. f.* [from *serge*, French; *serga*, Spanish, which Covarru-  
vias derives from *sirica*, Arabick; *Skinner* from *serge*, Ger-  
man, a mat.] A kind of cloth.  
The same wool one man felts into a hat, another weaves  
into cloth, another into kersey or *serges*, and another into  
arras. *Hale.*  
Ye weavers, all your shuttles throw,  
And bid broad-cloaths and *serges* grow. *Gay.*  
SERGEANT. *n. f.* [from *sergent*, French; *sergente*, Italian, from  
*sericus*, Latin.]  
1. An officer whose business it is to execute the commands of  
magistrates.  
Had I but time, as this fell *sergeant*, death,  
Is strict in his arrest, oh, I could tell. *Shakesp. Hamlet.*  
When it was day the magistrates sent the *sergeants*, saying,  
let these men go. *Acts xvi. 35.*  
2. A petty officer in the army.  
This is the *sergeant*,  
Who, like a good and hardy soldier, fought. *Shakesp. Macb.*  
3. A lawyer of the highest rank under a judge.  
None should be made *sergeant*, but such as probably might  
be held fit to be judges afterwards. *Bacon.*  
4. It is a title given to some of the king's servants: as, *sergeant*  
*chirurgians*.  
SERGEANTRY. *n. f.* [from *sergeant*.]  
Grand *sergeantry* is that where one holdeth lands of the  
king by service, which he ought to do in his own person unto  
him: as to bear the king's banner or his spear, or to lead his

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host, or to be his marshal, or to blow a horn, when he seeth  
his enemies invade the land; or to find a man at arms to fight  
within the four seas, or else to do it himself; or to bear the  
king's sword before him at his coronation, or on that day to  
be his fewer, carver, butler, or chamberlain. Petit *sergeantry*  
is where a man holdeth land of the king, to yield him yearly  
some small thing toward his wars: as a sword, dagger, bow,  
knife, spear, pair of gloves of mail, a pair of spurs, or such  
like. *Covel.*  
SERGEANTSHIP. *n. f.* [from *sergeant*.] The office of a *sergeant*.  
SERIES. *n. f.* [from *serie*, Fr. *series*, Latin.]  
1. Sequence; order.  
Draw out that antecedent, by reflecting briefly upon the text  
as it lies in the *series* of the epistle. *Ward of Infidelity.*  
The chafms of the correspondence I cannot supply, having  
destroyed too many letters to preserve any *series*. *Pope.*  
2. Succession; course.  
This is the *series* of perpetual woe,  
Which thou, alas, and thine are born to know. *Pope.*  
SERIOUS. *adj.* [from *serius*, Fr. *serius*, Latin.]  
1. Grave; solemn; not volatile; not light of behav' *Pope.*  
2. Important; weighty; not trifling.  
I'll hence to London on a *serious* matter. *Shakesp. H. VI.*  
There's nothing *serious* in mortality;  
All is but toys. *Shakesp. Macbeth.*  
SERIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *serious*.] Gravely; solemnly; in  
earnest; without levity.  
It cannot but be matter of very dreadful consideration to  
any one, sober and in his wits, to think *seriously* with himself,  
what horror and confusion must needs surprize that man, at  
the last day of account, who had led his whole life by one  
rule, when God intends to judge him by another. *Saath.*  
All laugh to find  
Unthinking plainness so o'erspread thy mind,  
That thou could'st *seriously* persuade the crowd  
To keep their oaths, and to believe a god. *Dryden.*  
Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Lactantius, and Arnobius, tell  
us, that this martyrdom first of all made them *seriously* in-  
quisitive into that religion, which could endure the mind with so  
much strength, and overcome the fear of death, nay, raise an  
earnest desire of it, though it appeared in all its terrors. *Adisi.*  
SERIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *serious*.] Gravity; solemnity; ear-  
nest attention.  
That spirit of religion and *seriousness* vanished all at once,  
and a spirit of libertinism and profaneness started up in the  
room of it. *Atterbury's Sermon.*  
The youth was received at the door by a servant, who then  
conducted him with great silence and *seriousness* to a long gal-  
lery, which was darkened at noon-day. *Adison's Spectator.*  
SARMOCINATOR. *n. f.* [from *sarmocinatus*, Latin.] The act or  
practice of making speeches.  
SARMOCINATOR. *n. f.* [from *sarmocinor*, Latin.] A preacher; a  
speechmaker.  
These ostentatious *sarmocinators* make easy impression upon  
the minds of the vulgar. *Hewitt.*  
SERMON. *n. f.* [from *sermon*, Fr. *sermo*, Lat.] A discourse of instruc-  
tion pronounced by a divine for the edification of the people.  
As for our *sermons*, be they never so found and perfect, God's  
word they are not, as the *sermons* of the prophets were; no,  
they are but ambiguously termed his word, because his word is  
commonly the subject whereof they treat, and must be the  
rule whereby they are framed. *Hewitt.*  
This our life, exempt from publick haunt,  
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,  
*Sermons* in stones, and good in every thing. *Shakesp. Lear.*  
In his *sermons* unto the soldiers, and in open talk with the  
nobility, it should seem that he himself had been enough to  
have overthrown the Turks. *Knolles's History of the Turks.*  
*Sermons* he heard, yet not so many  
As left no time to practise any:  
He heard them reverently, and then  
His practice preach'd them o'er again. *Crofton.*  
Many, while they have preached Christ in their *sermons*,  
have read a lecture of atheism in their practice. *South.*  
His preaching much, but more his practice wrought;  
A living *sermon* of the truths he taught. *Dryden.*  
To SERMON. *v. a.* [from *sermon*, Fr. from the noun.]  
1. To discourse as in a sermon.  
Some would rather have good discipline delivered plainly by  
way of precept, or *sermon'd* at large, than thus cloudily in-  
wrapped in allegorical devices. *Spenser.*  
2. To tutor; to teach dogmatically; to lesson.  
Come, *sermon* me no farther:  
No villainous bounty yet hath pass'd my heart. *Shak. Timon.*  
SERMOUNTAIN, or *Seyel*. *n. f.* [from *sermon*, Lat.] A plant.  
It hath a rose and umbellated flower, consisting of several  
leaves, which are ranged orbicularly, and rest on the empale-  
ment, which becomes a fruit composed of two large oblong  
furrowed seeds, having foliaceous ridges on one side. To  
these notes must be added, that the lobes of the leaves are  
large, long, and intire, excepting their extremity, where they  
are slightly cut into three parts. *Miller.*

SERO'SITY.

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SERO'SITY. *n. f.* [from *serosus*, Fr.] Thin or watery part of the  
blood.  
In these the salt and lixiviated *serosity* is divided between the  
guts and the bladder; but it remains undivided in birds. *Brown.*  
The tumour of the throat, which occasions the difficulty of  
swallowing and breathing, proceeds from a *serosity* obstructing  
the glands, which may be watery, oedematose, and scirrhus,  
according to the viscosity of the humour. *Arbutnot.*  
SEROUS. *adj.* [from *serus*, French; *serus*, Latin.]  
1. Thin; watery. Used of the part of the blood which sepa-  
rates in congelation from the grumous or red part.  
2. Adapted to the serum.  
This disease is commonly an extravasation of serum, re-  
ceived in some cavity of the body; for there may be also a  
dropy by a dilatation of the *serous* vessels, as that in the ova-  
rium. *Arbutnot on Diet.*  
SERPENT. *n. f.* [from *serpens*, Latin.] An animal that moves  
by undulation without legs. They are often venomous. They  
are divided into two kinds; the *viper*, which brings young,  
and the *snake*, that lays eggs.  
She was arrayed all in lily white,  
And in her right hand bore a cup of gold,  
With wine and water filled up to the height;  
In which a *serpent* did himself ensfold,  
That horror made to all that did behold. *Fairy Queen.*  
She struck me with her tongue,  
Most *serpent* like, upon the very heart. *Shakesp. K. Lear.*  
They, or under ground, or circuit wide,  
With *serpent* error wand'ring, found their way. *Milton.*  
Haply piercing through the dark disguise,  
The chief I challeng'd: he whose practis'd wit  
Knew all the *serpent* mazes of deceit,  
Eludes my search. *Pope's Odyssey.*  
SERPENTINE. *adj.* [from *serpens*, Lat. from *serpent*.]  
1. Resembling a serpent.  
I craved of him to lead me to the top of this rock, with  
meaning to free him from so *serpentine* a companion as I  
am. *Sidney.*  
This of ours is described with legs, wings, a *serpentine* and  
winding tail, and a crest or comb somewhat like a cock. *Brown.*  
Nothing wants, but that thy shape  
Like his, and colour *serpentine*, may shew  
Thy inward fraud. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*  
The figures and their parts ought to have a *serpentine* and  
flaming form naturally: these sorts of outlines have, I know  
not what of life and seeming motion in them, which very  
much resembles the activity of the flame and serpent. *Dryden.*  
2. Winding like a serpent; sinuous.  
Nor can the sun  
Perfect a circle, or maintain his way  
One inch direct; but where he rols to-day  
He comes no more, but with a cozening line  
Steals by that point, and so is *serpentine*. *Donne.*  
His hand the adorned firmament display'd,  
Those *serpentine*, yet constant motions made.  
How many spacious countries does the Rhine,  
In winding banks, and mazes *serpentine*,  
Traverse, before he splits in Belgia's plain,  
And, lost in sand, creeps to the German main? *Blackmore.*  
SERPENTINE. *n. f.* An herb. *Ainsworth.*  
SERPENTINE STONE. *n. f.*  
There were three species of this stone known among the  
ancients, all resembling one another, and celebrated for the  
same virtues. They were all of the marble kind: the one  
was green, variegated with spots of black, thence called the  
black opites; another, called the white opites, was green  
also, but variegated with spots of white: the third was called  
tephris, and was of a grey colour, variegated with small black  
spots. The first species was chiefly used in medicine, and  
found by the ancients only in Egypt; but it is frequent in the  
deserts of Arabia, in the islands of the Archipelago, in Italy,  
and we have whole quarries of it in Wales. The ancients tell  
us, that it was a certain remedy against the poison of the bite  
of serpents; but it is now justly rejected. *Hill's Mat. Med.*  
Accept in good part a bottle made of a *serpentine stone*,  
which hath the quality to give any wine or water, that shall be  
infused therein for four and twenty hours, the taste and opera-  
tion of the spaw-water, and is very medicinal for the cure  
of the spleen and gravel. *Watt.*  
SERPENTS TONGUE. *n. f.* An herb. *Ainsworth.*  
SERPET. *n. f.* A basket. *Ainsworth.*  
SERPENTIOUS. *adj.* [from *serpens*, Latin.] Diseased with a  
serpigo.  
The skin behind her ear downwards became *serpiginous*, and  
was covered with white scales. *Weseman.*  
SERPIGO. *n. f.* [Latin.] A kind of tetter.  
For thy own bowels, which do call thee fire,  
Do curle the gout, *serpigo*, and the rheum,  
For ending thee no sooner.  
She had a node with pains on her right leg, and a *serpigo*  
on her right hand. *Weseman.*  
To SERA. *v. a.* [from *sera*, French.] To drive hard together; to

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crowd into a little space. Not received into use, nor deserving  
reception.  
The frowning and knitting of the brows is a gathering or  
*sering* of the spirits, to resist in some measure; and also this  
knitting will follow upon earnest studying, though it be with-  
out dislike. *Bacon's Nat. History.*  
Heat attenuates and sends forth the spirit of a body, and  
upon that the more gross parts contract and *ser* themselves  
together. *Bacon.*  
SERRATE. *adj.* [from *seratus*, Latin.] Formed with jags or  
SERRATED. *adj.* indentures like the edge of a saw.  
All that have *serate* teeth are carnivorous. *Roy.*  
The common heron hath long legs for wading, a long neck  
answerable thereto to reach prey, a wide throat to pouch it,  
and long toes with strong hooked talons, one of which is re-  
markably *serate* on the edge. *Derham's Physico-Theology.*  
This stick is usually knotted, and always armed: one of  
them with a curious shark's tooth near an inch long, and in-  
dentured or *serate* on both edges: a scurvy weapon. *Greav.*  
SERRATION. *n. f.* [from *sera*, Latin.] Formation in the  
shape of a saw.  
SERRATURE. *n. f.* [from *sera*, Latin.] Indenture like teeth  
of saws.  
These are *serate* on the edges; but the *seratures* are  
deeper and grosser than in any of the rest. *Woodward.*  
To SERRY. *v. a.* [from *serer*, French; *serato*, Italian.] To press  
close; to drive hard together. For *sera* *Bacon* uses *ser*; but  
neither *ser* nor *sera* are received.  
With them role  
A forest huge of spears; and thronging helms  
Appear'd, and *serried* shields in thick array,  
Of death immeasurable. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*  
Foul dissipation follow'd, and fore'd rout;  
Nor serv'd it to relax their *serried* files. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
SERVANT. *n. f.* [from *servant*, French; *servus*, Latin.]  
1. One who attends another, and acts at his command. The  
correlative of master.  
We are one in fortune; both  
Fell by our *servants*, by those men we lov'd most. *Shakesp.*  
I had rather be a country *servant* maid,  
Than a great queen with this condition. *Shak. R. III.*  
He disdain'd not  
Thenceforth the form of *servant* to assume. *Milton.*  
For master or for *servant* here to call  
Was all alike, where only two were all. *Dryden.*  
2. One in a state of subjection. Unusual.  
Being unprepar'd,  
Our will became the *servant* to defect,  
Which else should free have wrong'd. *Shak. Macbeth.*  
3. A word of civility used to superiors or equals.  
This subjection, due from all men to all men, is something  
more than the compliment of course, when our betters tell us  
they are our humble *servants*, but understand us to be their  
slaves. *Swift.*  
To SERVANT. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To subject. Not in use.  
My affairs  
Are *servanted* to others: though I owe  
My revenge properly, remission lies  
In Volcanic breaths. *Shakesp. Coriolanus.*  
To SERVE. *v. a.* [from *servir*, French; *servis*, Latin.]  
1. To attend at command.  
Because thou art my brother, should'st thou therefore *serve*  
me for nought? *Gen. xxix. 15.*  
A goddess among gods ador'd, and *serv'd*  
By angels numberless, thy daily train. *Milton.*  
2. To obey servilely or meanly.  
When wealthy, shew thy wisdom not to be  
To wealth a *servant*, but make wealth *serve* thee. *Denham.*  
3. To supply with food ceremoniously.  
Others, pamper'd in their shameless pride,  
Are *serv'd* in plate, and in their chariots ride. *Dryden.*  
4. To bring as a menial attendant.  
Bid them cover the table, *serve* in the meat, and we will  
come in to dinner. *Shakesp. Merch. of Venice.*  
Soon after our dinner was *serv'd* in, which was right good  
viands, both for bread and meat: we had also drink of three  
sorts, all wholesome and good. *Bacon.*  
Besmeared with the horrid juice of sepia, they danced a lit-  
tle in phantastick postures, retired a while, and then returned  
*serv'ing* up a banquet as at solemn funerals. *Taylor.*  
Some part he roasts; then *serve* it up so dress'd,  
And bids me welcome to this humble feast:  
Mov'd with disdain,  
I with avenging flames the palace burn'd. *Dryden.*  
The same mels should be *serv'd* up again for supper, and  
breakfast next morning. *A bulbin. History of John Bull.*  
5. To be subservient or subordinate to.  
Bodies bright and greater should not *serve*  
The less not bright. *Milton.*  
6. To supply with any thing.  
They that *serve* the city, shall *serve* it out of all the tribes  
of Israel. *Exek. xlviii. 10.*  
7. To